of Taj Mahal with effect from 1st May, 2002. The external security of Taj Mahal is being looked after by the Uttar Pradesh Police.

(b) and (c) No such report of fire followed by another fire near Taj Mahal has been received by the Archaeological Survey of India.

Promotion of Diverse Culture of the Country

338. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN:Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to promote and preserve the diverse culture of the country;

(b) whether Government would set up 'Culture Parks' in the Metropolitan cities of the country in order to promote the culture; and

(c) what measures are being undertaken to spread the richness of our culture abroad?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) The mandate of this Ministry is to preserve and promote all forms of Art and Culture. The functional spectrum of the Ministry is ranging from generating cultural awareness at the grassroots level to promoting cultural exchanges at an international level. The activities are carried out through the Attached/ Subordinate and Autonomous Institutions and a number of Schemes under the Ministry.

(b) No such proposal is under consideration.

(c) The Ministry of Culture has been actively pursuing the policy of cultural cooperation with many countries by entering into Cultural Agreements and further developing them into Cultural Exchange Programmes.

Historical documents

339. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that historic documents lying in official custodian of the National Archives are not properly preserved;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps Government are taking for preservation of these documents?